(e) and (f) A proposal for creation of 17 posts of peons made by Doordarshan was not approved by the Government in view of ban on creation of 'Non-Plan' posts. However, they have been allowed as a special case to fill up existing vacancies in the grade of Peon to meet their immediate functional requirements.

(g) The posts are created on the basis of functional requirements and not merely with a view to absorb persons working on ad hoc basis.

Rural Development Programmes

1375. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have asked the State Governments to involve recognised voluntary organisations and beneficiaries in the rural development programmes; and

(b) whether the Central Government have directed the State Governments to ensure the role of the Panchayati Raj institutions in the field of rural development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

National Agricultural Inputs fortnight

1376. SHRI M. BASAVRAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Inputs Fortnight was celebrated from the 8th October, to 22nd October, 1984 by the Central Government; and

(b) if so, which of the States celebrated the above fortnight?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Instructions for observance of National Agricultural Inputs Fortnight throughout the country were issued by the Central Government to all the State Governments and Union Territories, nationalised banks and to all the agencies involved in distribution of agricultural inputs. Reports on observance of the fortnight were also received from various inputs agencies and all State Governments and Union Territories except from the States of Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal, Nagaland and the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh.

Import of vegetable oils

1377. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vegetable oils worth crores of rupees are imported every year costing the exchequer heavily in foreign exchange;

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to improve on the production of Oilseeds in the country; and

(c) whether diversification of crops has been considered to meet the demands of Oilseeds in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) For some time past, there has been a gap between the total demand and indigenous production of edible oils in the country. As a short term measure, the gap is partly met by import. However, the import is kept to the minimum.

(b) With a view to increase the production of oilseeds substantially, a Centrally Sponsored National Oil-